

## Claims

1. Method for forwarding signaling messages, through which the following steps are carried out through the specified sequence  
5 without limitation with the help of at least one device (10, 100):

Receiving (182) of signaling messages, which contain a target datum in each case, which specifies or relates to a target device (106, 116), to which the signaling message is forwarded,

10 depending on the target datum, production (188) and forwarding (190) of a converted signaling message according to another signaling protocol as the signaling protocol of the received signaling message, taking into account specifications for the conversion of  
15 the signaling messages of one signaling protocol into signaling messages of another protocol for a signaling message with a target datum, which specifies or relates to a target device, which requires a protocol conversion,

20 depending on the target datum, forwarding (192) of the signaling message without conversion to another signaling protocol for a signaling message with a target datum, which specifies or relates to a target device, which requires no protocol conversion,

25 2. Method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the signaling messages are received from a signaling device (10), which controls the production and forwarding of a converted signaling message and the forwarding of the signaling protocol without conversion, and/or

30 in that the signaling device (100, 150) itself carries out the protocol conversion.

35 3. Method according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, characterized in that the signaling device (100, 150) performs functions of a network access device and/or functions for the path control, and/or in that the signaling device performs functions of a telecommunication device, which preferably serves for the switching

of connections for the transfer of voice data in a private data transfer network.

4. Method according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in  
5 that the signaling device (100, 150) performs network access functions for central devices of at least two local data transfer networks (110, 114), whereby the central devices in each case perform services for a number of terminal devices of a data transfer network, or

10 in that the signaling device (150) performs a network access function for terminal devices (152, 154) of at least one local data transfer network (154), and/or

in that the data transfer network functions according to the internet protocol or according to a protocol built on it.

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5. Method according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that a signaling protocol is a signaling protocol of the H.323 protocol family or a signaling protocol built on one such signaling protocol, and/or

20 in that a signaling protocol is the SIP protocol or a protocol built on it, and/or

in that a signaling protocol is a signaling protocol for signaling between telecommunication devices, preferably the protocol QSIG or a protocol built on it, in particular a proprietary signaling

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protocol.

6. Method according to one of the preceding claims, characterized by the steps:

- Reading (184) of the target datum with an access function, which 30 reads target data of various signaling protocols,

- Determination of an original signaling protocol of the received signaling message,

- Determination of the signaling protocol required by the target device that is related to or specified by means of the target 35 datum,

- Comparison of the original signaling protocol and of the required signaling protocol,

- Making the decision regarding the conversion or forwarding without conversion, depending on the result of the comparison.

7. Method according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in  
5 that no protocol conversion is required for signaling protocols of  
the same protocol family.

8. Method according to one of the preceding claims, characterized by  
the steps:

- 10 - Storage of the received signaling message in a storage device (30),
- Decision for or against a protocol conversion after the storage,
- After the decision, conversion of the stored signaling message or  
forwarding of the stored signaling message without protocol  
15 conversion.

9. Method according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in  
that the signaling messages relate to a signaling for the transfer  
of voice data, in particular in operating data packets, and/or  
20 in that the signaling messages relate to the performance of  
additional service features for the transfer of voice data.

10. Program with an instruction sequence, in the execution of which  
by a processor a method according to one of the preceding claims is  
25 carried out.

11. Device (10, 100, 170), in particular a data processing device,  
for forwarding signaling messages, in particular according to a  
method according to one of the Claims 1 to 9,

30 with a receiving device for receiving signaling messages, which  
contain a target datum in each case, which specifies or relates to a  
target to which the signaling message is to be forwarded,

35 with an access device to the target data in signaling messages of  
different signaling protocols,

with a decision device (136, 156), which incorporates a protocol conversion device (12, 138, 158), depending on the target datum for a signaling message with a target datum that specifies or relates to a target device that requires a protocol conversion,

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and which causes a forwarding without incorporation of the protocol conversion device (12, 138, 158), depending on the target datum for a signaling message with a target datum that specifies or relates to a target device that requires no protocol conversion,

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and with a forwarding device, which forwards a converted signaling message produced, as the signaling protocol of the signaling message received from the protocol conversion device (12, 138, 158), from the received signaling message according to another signaling protocol, and which forwards a signaling message without protocol conversion.

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12. Device according to Claim 11, characterized by a protocol conversion device, which, based on a signaling message according to a signaling protocol, produces a signaling message with the same control characteristics according to another signaling protocol.

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